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Summary record of the 36th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 10 June 2015, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Oh Joon (Vice-President) ..... (Republic of Korea)

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In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2015/80)

Requests from non-governmental organizations to be heard by the Economic and Social Council

1. **The President** drew attention to the requests from non-governmental organizations to be heard by the Economic and Social Council (E/2015/80). At its resumed 2015 session, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had decided to recommend that the organizations mentioned in that document should be heard by the Council at the high-level segment of its 2015 session. He took it that the Council wished to adopt the Committee's recommendation.

2. *It was so decided.*

The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*) (A/70/75-E/2015/55)

3. **Mr. Gass** (Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system (A/70/75-E/2015/55), submitted pursuant to the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex), said that the report built on the findings contained in the 2013 and 2014 reports. Several important developments had taken place since the issuance of the 2014 report, including the second meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development — the first held under the auspices of the Council — the adoption of the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the adoption of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), the issuance of the Secretary-General's synthesis report on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda (A/69/700) and the launch of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. Those developments had given added urgency to the need to mainstream sustainable development approaches throughout the United Nations system.

4. The report currently before the Council recognized the impetus that the future sustainable development goals were providing to the United Nations system's efforts to adapt to the new agenda and adopt sustainable development approaches, with the overarching objective of helping countries to implement the goals at the national level. Inter-agency efforts to strengthen integration and mainstreaming were gaining momentum. The United Nations system had been reflecting on strategies to ensure environmental and social sustainability; strong analytical work had also been undertaken in support of the sustainable development goals.

5. The report analysed how the sustainable development goals, which could drive system-wide integration and mainstreaming, were interrelated through their targets. It placed a stronger focus than previous reports on strategic plans as a core instrument for mainstreaming integrated approaches and contained new analysis of country-level support. Furthermore, it looked at existing mechanisms for United Nations system accountability, the role of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and what could be learned from Millennium Development Goals follow-up processes.

6. The report concluded with a number of recommendations. It was suggested, inter alia, that Member States should request the Secretary-General to map United Nations system support across the sustainable development goals and encourage reflection on how to ensure integrated and coordinated support that adequately reflected interrelations between the goals; invite the United Nations system and its governing bodies to assess the asymmetry between economic, social and environmental issues in their work; and encourage the United Nations system to implement the Environment Management Group framework for advancing environmental and social sustainability in the system.

7. Reporting on the progress achieved in implementing the priorities, commitments, partnerships and other activities of the small island developing

States, in accordance with the mandate given by the Samoa Pathway in General Assembly resolution 69/15, he said that the International Year of Small Island Developing States, which had concluded successfully in February 2015, had aimed to raise global awareness of the sustainable development challenges faced by small island developing States and to celebrate their rich cultural and natural heritage. Most importantly, the Year had helped to build momentum for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

8. The implementation of the Samoa Pathway had become an important element in the strategic plans, work programmes and investment of regional and global intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations system, helping entities to align their activities to that end. The Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs had been tasked with monitoring implementation within the United Nations system while ensuring integrated follow-up to the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Linkages were also being made with preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in July 2015 and the post-2015 development agenda negotiations. The Inter-agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States had been revitalized to play a role in monitoring and fostering partnerships among its members.

9. As part of the process of ensuring implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for small island developing States, as called for in the Samoa Pathway, 40 Member States — representing the three regions with small island developing States and the European Union as a whole — had submitted their views to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs through a survey circulated to Permanent Missions. As a result of those consultations, an informal draft note by the Secretariat for a small island developing States partnership framework had been prepared and posted on the Small Island Developing States Action Platform, the Department's website on the follow-up to the Pathway. The Department looked forward to receiving further views on the recommendations set out in the draft note. The Small Island Developing States Action Platform also hosted the related partnership platform, which provided updates on over 300 partnerships announced at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, as well as encouraging new ones.

10. In the Samoa Pathway, Member States had requested a review of the United Nations system support for small island developing States. The initial findings of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning that review would be provided in the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, while the full findings would be issued as an addendum to that report later in the seventieth session of the General Assembly. Prior to the release of the more comprehensive report, the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be held in July 2015, would provide an important opportunity to discuss how to maintain the momentum needed to implement the Samoa Pathway.

Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(c) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (*continued*) (E/2015/L.11)

Draft resolution E/2015/L.11: Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

11. **The President** said that he had submitted the draft resolution in his capacity as Vice-President on the basis of informal consultations.

12. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that in operative paragraph 6, the word "Recognizing" should be changed to read "Recognizes". In operative paragraphs 7 and 14, the word "Requests" should be replaced with the words "Calls upon". Lastly, in operative paragraph 14 (i), the words "Ensuring the" should be deleted; the new sentence would begin with the word "Tracking".

13. **Mr. Holtz** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the States members of the European Union were pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution and understood that the oral amendments to the text were necessary in order to respect the United Nations budgetary process and the role of the Fifth Committee

in that regard. The European Union was committed to the full and effective implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; the last-minute amendments did not in any way alter the desire of the States Members of the United Nations to see the System-wide Action Plan implemented, nor the requirement and responsibility of the United Nations system to do so. Lastly, there was a continued need for increased clarity regarding budgetary implications during future negotiation processes in order to enable Member States to make informed decisions in a timely matter.

14. **Mr.** Junichi **Sumi** (Japan), co-facilitator of negotiations on the draft resolution, said he was grateful to Member States for their active participation in negotiations. The new language introduced would prevent the draft resolution from giving rise to a request for programme budget implications. He trusted that the United Nations system would continue with its excellent work in implementing the System-wide Action Plan.

15. **The President** said that the draft resolution, as orally amended, contained no programme budget implications.

16. *Draft resolution E/2015/L.11, as orally amended, was adopted.*

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(j) Women and development (*continued*) (E/2015/27)

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-ninth session (E/2015/27)

Draft resolution I: Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

17. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report. The draft resolution had been adopted by the Commission by a recorded vote of 27 to 2, with 13 abstentions. He understood that a recorded vote in the Council had been requested on the draft resolution.

18. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Guatemala, India, Kuwait, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nepal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia and United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Austria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

19. *The draft resolution was adopted by 16 votes to 2, with 20 abstentions.*

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-ninth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixtieth session of the Commission

20. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-ninth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixtieth session of the Commission", contained in chapter I, section B, of the report.

21. *The draft decision was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.